

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02308 080555Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 AGR-20 PM-07

NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 031207

R 080513Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3687

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2308

E.OQ 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, PK

SUBJ: TRADE PROSPECTS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

SUMMARY OF ISLAMABAD A-33 DISCUSSING TRADE PROSPECTS
BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH FOLLOWS:

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING PAKISTAN'S RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH,
IT IS APPROPRIATE TO EXAMINE PROSPECTS FOR TRADE BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. PAKISTAN HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESS-
FUL IN DIVERTING TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE MOST OF THE PROD-
UCTS FORMERLY SOLD TO ITS EAST WING OR IN USING DOMESTICALLY
PRODUCTS FORMERLY SHIPPED TO THE EAST WING, AS IN THE CASE
OF OIL SEEDS. THE ONLY IMPORTANT SHIPMENT TO THE EAST WING
WHICH PAKISTAN WAS NOT ABLE TO SHIFT TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE
OR CONSUME DOMESTICALLY IS TOBACCO. THUS, AT THE PRESENT
TIME, WHEN THERE IS STRONG INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR
PAKISTAN'S MAJOR EXPORTS, TOBACCO APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY
PRODUCT FOR WHICH PAKISTAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A MARKET

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02308 080555Z

IN BANGLADESH NOT AVAILABLE IN OTHER MARKETS. TOBACCO HAS

AN ADDITIONAL IMPORTANCE IN THAT HISTORICALLY IT HAS BEEN
A COMPETITIVE CROP WITH THE OPIUM POPPY IN CERTAIN AREAS
OF PAKISTAN. THE BANGLADESH MARKET COULD ONCE AGAIN BE-
COME IMPORTANT FOR PAKISTAN'S EXPORT OF COTTON, RICE AND
COTTON TEXTILES SHOULD CURRENT HIGH WORLD DEMAND DECLINE.
PAKISTAN HAS ALSO BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THE PRODUCTS WHICH IT IMPORTED FROM
THE EAST WING. THE MAJOR EXCEPTION HAS BEEN JUTE AND JUTE
PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD THUS APPEAR TO OFFER THE BEST PROSPECT
FOR EXPORT FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN. BANGLADESH MAY
HAVE PERMANENTLY LOST ITS FORMER LARGE TEA MARKET IN
PAKISTAN AS CONSUMERS HAVE DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR OTHER TEA.
END SUMMARY. AIRGRAM WILL BE POUCHED.
BYROADE

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30 JUN 2005

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